

SUCCESS STORY



Synergy for Better Drinking Water Management in Djenné

Mali Finance and PGP, two USAID-funded projects, synergistically joined hand to enhance the skills of the members of the “*Association des usagers d’eau potable de Djenné*” (the Djenné Drinking Water Users’ Association” using the MP module which provides experience-based learning opportunities with company management fundamentals.

The city of Djenné, 30 km south west of Mopti, is located in the area served by the Participatory Governance Program (*Programme de Gouvernance Partagée, P.G.P.*, in French), a project implemented by CARE Mali, Mali Finance, and Chemonics, Inc. To address the lack of drinking water, the authorities developed a water supply infrastructure in Djenné. The mayor entrusted the management of the water distribution network to the “*Association des usagers d’eau potable de Djenné*” run by a Management Board. To date management had not function well. The people of Djenné were not well served owing to politics and the closure of most of the water sites.. Ineffective bookkeeping skills lead to financial huge arrears. . It became imperative to develop the skills to appropriately manage the association.

Together the Mali Finance and PGP programs developed training delivered from October 19 to 26, 2005. The training focused on financial management of the community-owned water sites, to develop long term, cost effectiveness management including budgeting for the the

replacement of equipment. Vice President, Amadou Bakisso Cissé had this to say:



New members of the Management Board meet to prepare for participation in the Micro Plan training

‘ ‘Because of this training, we will do our best to implement the action plan to justify the confidence placed in us for an unbiased good management of the community water sites. , Before the training misuse and mismanagement prevailed. Now we will put in practice the concepts we have learned. We are pleased with the training received and we look forward to more training.’ ’.

The management skills of the members to supply the population with drinking water were enhanced and they started implementing their action plan to address the effective management of community water sites. . The new members of the management board claim they are addressing these issues through the payment of arrears, stopping credit-based supply of water, developing an effective monitoring system, supplying user-friendly and reliable accounting tools, conducting a regular accounts audit and separating the duties of cashier and water supplier.

According to President El Hadji Diakité, *"the management of the community water sites has become a major issue in Djenné. Thanks to this training, we will be able to quickly meet the expectations of the populations and authorities. By implementing the action plan, we will not only be able to supply quality water, but also to include appropriate fees for the depreciation of equipment."*



Group work during the training allowed discussions on the problems, opportunities and solutions.



While the new management board intends to immediately implement the plan the management problem will only be solved in the short and medium term. Therefore Mali Finance suggested a STEP-based close monitoring (STEP stands for *Stratégies d'Envol des Petites Entreprises*), a World Bank-funded program.

The PGP coordinator in Mopti was very sensitive to the satisfaction expressed by the everyone. She said "Our

partners really needed this training. This case illustrates well the concept of shared governance and is a striking example of synergy between different USAID projects.